



Irrigation During Dry Conditions (Spring)

During spring season, temperatures throughout Florida moderate from mid to upper 70's to low 90's. Increasing temperatures cause landscapes to demand more water. In fact, these weather conditions cause the landscapes demand for water to be at its highest of the entire year.

Historically the area receives very little rainfall during the spring season making irrigation systems the primary water source to Florida's beautiful landscapes. As conditions escalate it's not uncommon to see irrigation consumption increase as much as 30-50% each month throughout spring season. To minimize these increases it's imperative the efficiency of the irrigation system be maximized. Many factors such as blocked, crooked and broken heads can affect the overall efficiency. Mainscape's irrigation team has been working diligently where authorized to prepare for this challenging time and will make necessary adjustments to meet the landscapes demand for water.

Below are a few items to consider regarding irrigation during dry conditions:

- Areas where water restrictions allow irrigation once or twice a week, which includes all service areas but Collier County, **WILL** experience less than desirable conditions during weeks without rain events. Days just prior to irrigation events will be the worst. Irrigation team members can provide general irrigation programming information for clients to be aware when landscapes may be vulnerable to less than desirable performance. Due to constant adjustments to irrigation programming, we're unable to give specific times individual zones will run. However, in most cases, we should be able to share what days of the week irrigation is scheduled.
- Properties using potable water for irrigation can expect significant increases in water bills as the landscapes demand for water intensifies.
- Installation of new plant material will be challenging during dry conditions and will significantly increase water consumption. Clients may consider waiting until rainy season begins in mid to late June to install new plant material. Sod installation is even more challenging given shallow root zones and is urged to wait for rainy season where possible. Keep in mind water restrictions only allow irrigation grow-in programs on zones where more than 50% of the landscape and or turf is new.
- Please use the customer service request (CSR) system to report irrigation issues. Where possible, avoid contacting team members in the field directly, they are most likely working on another issue and won't be able to record the request properly. The CSR system will receive all requests and allow them to be prioritized and addressed timely.
- While irrigation team members have performed irrigation inspections throughout the year in preparation of dry season, hot spots are inevitable given high temperatures and lack of rainfall. During this challenging time, irrigation issues become noticeable and problematic in a matter of hours rather than days in cooler times or seasons with more frequent rainfall.

We appreciate your understanding and patience during this challenging time.